



IT'S ABOUT FINDING THE BEAUTY IN THE EVERYDAY:
IN RISING TO THE CHALLENGE BY FINDING THE EXTRA
SPACES THAT ONLY ARCHITECTURE CAN PROVIDE.

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CF15

'I used to dream about escaping my ordinary life, but my life was never ordinary. I had simply failed to notice how extraordinary it was.' Ransom Riggs



House name: La Reserva House / Architect: Sebastián Irarrázaval / Location: La Reserva, Colina, Chile.

ARCHITECTURE+

The driving influence for 2015 is the idea of 'Everyday+' – of opening our eyes to see the beauty that surrounds us everywhere, often in the most unlikely and surprising of places. It's about searching for and finding that little extra which makes the difference to our lives. By exploring under-utilised spaces in architecture, as well as our relationships both with each other and with our environment as a whole, we are learning to

look at the world around us in new and unique ways. Reflected by the 2015 colour palette that is dominated by our Colour of the Year: a rusty, coppery orange that perfectly enhances both man-made materials and the natural world – as seen in architect Sebastián Irarrázaval's La Reserva House in Colina, Chile (pictured above). It's about finding the wonderful in the normal: the magic in the everyday.

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BIG + NATURE SMALL ME

PUTTING THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE

The modern world is often rigid and constraining, making us long for a simpler way that is natural, free and – crucially – offline. With this we see a trend in architecture for embracing the natural world and bringing it into our homes. This is a new definition of freedom, where strength and clarity in design is emphasized through the dwarfing scale of nature.

While we might not all want to pit ourselves against the extremes of nature, the idea of a more authentic and mindful existence appeals to most, and is inspiring a new, raw minimalism, stripping away all that is unnecessary and purely cosmetic. Although we are impressed by vast

architectural spaces with high ceilings and endless corridors, there is an emerging trend for the human scale of smaller environments to blend seamlessly into the wider – and wilder – world outside.

Jensen & Skodvin Architects (www.jsa.no/www.facebook.com/jensenandskodvin) have created designs that seem to melt into the countryside; protecting and exposing us to nature at the same time. It's a natural progression from Frank Lloyd Wright's mature designs, where organic elements such as bedrock and waterfalls break the traditional boundaries between what is 'inside' and what is 'outside'.





Frank Lloyd Wright
'Coming into the house
would be something like
putting on your house
and going outdoors.'



'In diversity there is beauty
and there is strength.' Maya Angelou



www.demakersvan.com



him+her

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF BEING DIFFERENT

As we seek and attain greater gender equality both in the workplace and at home, so we are learning to celebrate our uniqueness. Confident in our own skin, there is a growing trend towards celebrating the best of each sex, in the importance of difference as well as equality.

While also acknowledging how the masculine and the feminine can complement each other, men and women are increasingly being encouraged to play on the traditions of masculinity and femininity.

A perfect example of this trend in architecture is Demakersvan's Lace Fence (www.demakersvan.com).

The design by the Rotterdam based firm takes a very harsh, male structure – chain-link fencing – and adds a feminine lightness of touch by knotting it like lace. "Lace Fence shows how something which was meant to be purely functional can also be decorative," they explain, "Hostility versus kindness, industry versus craft."

This combination of strength and subtlety is also reflected in this colour palette, with traditional feminine hues combined with bolder, more masculine colours, creating a virtue out of contrast.



+ UNSEEN SPACES

THE LUXURY OF THE IN-BETWEEN

With space increasingly at a premium in our modern lives, we are learning to value and make use of previously neglected, unseen or unloved areas of our environment. Turning the famous William Morris quote inside out – “Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful” – we are now looking at the useless and the ugly from a new perspective. We are making a virtue out of negative space and creating beauty and use where previously there was none.

Architectural practices such as Japan’s Hiroyuki Shinozaki and Brazil’s AR Arquitetos are brilliantly exploring ‘left-over’ space in the urban environment,

maximizing the potential of under-utilised areas. In cities where space is at a premium, glimpses of extra levels and a sense of depth, drawing the eye beyond the surface, help to add a sense of calm and serenity where before there was none.

This effect can be exaggerated through the subtle use of colour: for instance by using dark and light shades together to give the illusion of three-dimensional depth. It’s about finding the beauty in the everyday: in rising to the challenge by finding the extra spaces that only architecture can provide.





'THE UNDISCOVERED IS NOT FAR AWAY. IT IS CONTAINED WITHIN WHAT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.' H.E. DAVEY



Hiroyasu Sakaguchi



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